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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

4-1-1971

From/To: Mr. & Mrs. W.R. Harshaw (Chalk's reply
filed first)

W.R. Harshaw

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April 1, 1971

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Harshaw
5136 South East Harvard Drive
Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003

Dear Brother and Sister Harshaw:

I have talked with Sue for one hour during this semester. I have seen her on a number of occasions at church services and other gatherings for Bible study and worship. In that one-hour conference I continued to point out the difficulties and the tensions that an interracial marriage would encounter. I have also suggested specific reading material to her, including one book long examination of this phenomenon sociologically and psychologically.

I have not had an opportunity to talk with Larry since his leaving Abilene Christian College. I cannot imagine how you have gotten the impression that I am encouraging the marriage. Unfortunately, it is not my place to represent you to Sue, or Sue to you. This would be to render whatever influence I might have of no effect. I sincerely hope that because of the desire which both Larry and Sue had to talk with me, conferences which I did not initiate, in which my schedule was hard-pressed to include, will not alienate you and your wife from me.

I have no knowledge of their "sex life." It seems to me that you ought to understand, however, that if I did I would not be at liberty to divulge such confidential information. I am convinced that Larry and Sue, like any "normal" couple, has had extreme pressures placed on them by their relationship and by the very nature of the culture in which all of us today live. I do, however, have evidence that both of them and especially Sue, have been trained and taught as children growing up in the church, and have their own personal convictions of what is moral and what is immoral.

I am sorry I cannot offer any more information. I am also sorry that you are now evidently beginning to come to the conclusion that I am encouraging this marriage. This is a desperate move that I regret seeing you take.

Sincerely yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc

Barthsville, Okla.
5136 SE Harvard Dr.
March 21, 1971

Mr. John Allen Chalk
Highland Church of Christ

Dear Bro. Chalk:

If you have time would you send us a report of your work with Sue and Larry? He would like very much to know at least how many times you have seen them, if you have seen Sue this semester. What was the main points of your advise to them? From what little we got from her, she seems to read into it that you recommended to some degree their courtship.

You stated to us you were going to stress their temptation regarding morals. What do you know about their sex life?

We appreciate very much any information you feel you can give us.

In Christian Love,
H.R. Harshaw.